

BUREAU OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Rights for Youth under our Care, Custody and Supervision

The Bureau of Juvenile Justice is committed to observing and enforcing all laws and rules pertinent to the individual rights of youth. Bureau officers, staff and contracted providers will respect and protect each youth's rights and comply with all laws relating thereto.

In addition to respect for all human rights prescribed by law, the following are the expectations of this Bureau with regard to our professional interaction with the youth we serve.

We recognize that every officer, staff member, and contracted provider has an obligation to serve as a role model to youth by his or her deportment and conduct. Having an obligation to show youth the way we would like them to behave, we must in turn model this behavior. This means that:

- ✎ We will, at all times, use appropriate language when speaking to or in the presence of youth.
- ✎ We will always strive to speak in a calm and respectful tone towards and around youth.
- ✎ We will never be deliberately confrontational with youth, unless warranted therapeutically or programmatically.
- ✎ We will always use appropriate counseling and intervention techniques before resorting to physical force. Physical force, as defined by the Bureau, shall always be used as a last resort, and only when all other options have been exhausted and safety and security is compromised.
- ✎ We will not make threatening statements to youth. We will explain options, alternative, and consequences in a calm and professional manner; we will always strive to encourage positive and compliant behavior.
- ✎ We will help youth learn to make proper decisions for themselves.
- ✎ We will always strive to be respectful and courteous to fellow employees and towards youth in our care, even when we are faced with disrespectful conduct.
- ✎ We will always provide for youth's basic needs; including food, clothing, shelter, medical care and security. We will not, through inaction or inattention, allow these needs to remain unmet.
- ✎ We will always ensure that youth and staff maintain a clean, safe, and healthy learning environment.
- ✎ We will always ensure that our staff maintain the highest ethical behavior including reporting of any behavior that is deemed inappropriate or any bias or prejudice because of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.
- ✎ Retaliation is prohibited. NO staff member shall retaliate against a youth because the youth has filed a complaint or assisted, participated, or testified in an investigation proceeding or hearing.